

Old Attorney Ref.: 32014-175198

New Attorney Ref.: OKI 328

REMARKS

The title has been amended to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Replacement drawings are submitted in accordance with the requirement of the Examiner. Reexamination and reconsideration of the amended application respectfully are requested.

As required by the Examiner, Fig. 3 is revised for consistency with page 10, lines 25-26 of the specification, Fig. 5 is revised to change "toward" to "forward", and Figs. 20a and 20b have been revised to be separately labeled "Prior Art."

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 5 and 6 for lack of proper antecedent basis in each of these claims and a misspelling of "calculator" in claim 5. The claims have been amended to overcome these objections.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dutta et al.* in view of *Challapali*. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to make explicit reference to tables nowhere shown or suggested in the cited prior art, and it is submitted that the rejection is inapplicable to the amended claims. These claims have been further so as not to be limited to the analysis of Japanese text, because the invention has broader application.

According to the present invention as defined in independent claims 1, 3 and 5, facial characters are formed of a plurality of symbols. That is, the facial characters are combination of the symbols. Each symbol is stored in a table (for example Table 3 in the first preferred embodiment), in relation to a reading number as part of a characteristic extraction unit. The reading numbers correspond to particular readings as stored in a

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reading table (Table 4 in the first embodiment) associated with a reading selection unit for outputting readings allotted to extracted reading numbers with reference to the reading table that associates the reading numbers with particular readings corresponding thereto. Thus, the reading of the facial characters can be determined using these tables.

The cited references do not disclose or even suggest the tables, which include the relationship between the symbols and the readings. Further, the references do not disclose the reading of the facial character decided based on such tables. These features provide advantages over the prior art discussed throughout the specification. Claims 1, 3 and 5, and claims 2, 4 and 6 respectfully depending therefrom, therefore are deemed clearly to be patentable over the cited references and the rejection accordingly should be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-6, earnestly is solicited.

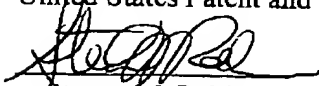
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Respectfully submitted,


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February 28, 2005
Date

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